

Census 2010 – It's In Our Hands

The 2010 Census is rapidly approaching. In 2010, the U.S. census will define who we are as a nation. Taken every 10 years, the Census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. Achieving a complete and accurate 2010 Census is very important.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.

Our community participation in the census matters. Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period. Census data is used to determine the most need for additional social services, including who receives community development block grants and other grant programs essential to our community.

Completing the 2010 Census Questionnaire is simple and safe. The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person – name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail. The Census Bureau does not release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their households for 72 years.

The 2010 Census can and will shape the future of our community, define your voice in Congress and generate local employment opportunities for your constituents. Census information helps determine locations for schools, roads, hospitals, child-care and senior citizen centers and more. Businesses use census data to locate supermarkets, shopping centers, new housing and other facilities. The census determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the boundaries of legislative districts. Local communities use census data to gauge the financial health of the community and the future of vital social service programs.

The 2010 Census – “It's In Our Hands”. Please make sure you and everyone in your household is counted. When you receive your simple short form in the mail, please fill it out and send it in. For more information about the 2010 Census, please go to www.census.gov/2010census.